## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /077 W
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R 250616Z MAY 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6765 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS AMEMBASSY GABORONE USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10145

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652:N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC SUBJ: EC IMPORTS OF BOTSWANA BEEF

**REF: GABORONE 1446** 

1. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL IN THE EC COMMISSION'S VETERINARY DIVISION, ALL IMPORTS OF BOTSWANA BEEF THE COMMUNITY WERE HALTED IN NOVEMBER, 1977 FOLLOWING REPORTS OF A FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) OUTBREAK IN NORTHERN BOTSWANA. SUCH ACTION IS REQUIRED BY THE EC'S THIRD COUNTRYMEAT DIRECTIVE WHICH SPECIFIES THAT MEAT CANNOT ENTER THE COMMUNITY FROM A COUNTRY WHERE EXOTIC FMD IS PRESENT. OFFICIAL SAID THAT BOTSWANA HAD HALTED ALL EXPORTS OF BEEF TO THE EC ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK LAST NOVEMBER. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. THERE ARE PROVISIONS IN THE THIRD COUNTRY DIRECTIVE, HOWEVER, WHEREBY THE STANDING VETERINARY COMMITTEE CAN, UPON INVESTIGATION, MAKE A DETERMINATION THAT FRESH MEAT IMPORTS MIGHT BE PERMITTED FROM SPECIFIED UNAFFECTED REGIONS OF AN INFECTED THIRD COUNTRY. FOLLOWING LAST NOVEMBER'S OUTBREAK, OFFICIAL SAID THAT STANDING VETERINARY

COMMITTEE HAD BEGUN SUCH A PROCEDURE TO DETERMINE WHETHER RESUMPTION OF BEEF IMPORTS FROM THE SOUTHERN, UNAFFECTED REGION OF BOTSWANA MIGHT BE PERMITTED. IN THE MIDST OF THE PROCEDURE, HOWEVER, ADDITIONAL OUTBREAKS OF FMD WERE REPORTED EVEN IN CATTLE ALREADY VACCINATED AGAINST FMD. THIS FORCED THE COMMITTEE TO ABANDON THAT APPROACH FOR THE TIME BEING. THE EC IS WATCHING THE SITUATION VERY CLOSELY AND WILL EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING IMPORTS FROM BOTSWANA WHEN THE SITUATION BECOMES MORE SETTLED.

3. OFFICIAL SAID HE DID NOT KNOW HOW MUCH BOTSWANA BEEF FRANCE HAD BEEN IMPORTING, BUT HE BELIEVES AT THE U.K. HAD BEEN THE MAJOR IMPORTER KING AROUND 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL EC IMPORTS FROM BOTSWANA.HINTON

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